

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 XMB-02 /132 W
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R 091349Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7153
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
ZEN AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 2671

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6861

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

DEPT ALSO PASS EXIMBANK FOR SHROBE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BENC, ENERG, TECH, GR
SUBJECT: TRADE OPPORTUNITIES: GOG DECIDES TO PROCEED WITH LAVRION
POWER PROJECT; MEGALOPOLIS DELAYED ABOUT TWO YEARS

REF: (A) 77 ATHENS 3409; (B) ATHENS 2135; (C) ATHENS 6241;
(D) ATHENS 6417

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.
AT A MEETING YESTERDAY CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS,
THE GOVERNMENT REACHED A FINAL DECISION ON MODIFICATIONS TO BE
MADE IN THE PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION'S (PPC) TEN-YEAR
DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REPORTED IN REF B) TO MEET ANTICIPATED
POWER SHORTAGES RESULTING FROM POSTPONEMENT OF THE 300 MW
MEGOLOPOLIS LIGNITE-FIRED UNIT. PPC WILL PROCEED WITH THE
300 MW OIL-FIRED UNIT AT LAVRION (SEE REF C) WHICH IS
INTENDED FOR BASE LOADS, AND WILL ALSO INSTALL TWO 80 MW GAS
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TURBINES, PROBABLY NEAR THE ASPROPYRGOS REFINERY, TO HANDLE
PEAK LOADS. EXCEPT FOR THESE ADDITIONS, THE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM, NOW ESTIMATED AT \$10 BILLION OVER TEN YEARS, WILL
REMAIN AS BEFORE.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING ALSO NOTED THAT, SINCE
GREECE'S LIGNITE RESERVES ARE SUFFICIENT ONLY FOR CURRENTLY

PLANNED UNITS, NUCLEAR POWER IS THE ONLY COST-EFFECTIVE
ALTERNATIVE FOR THE FUTURE. THEREFORE THE PRIME MINISTER
DIRECTED PPC AND THE GREEK ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM,
INCLUDING MANNING OF THESE AGENCIES BY SUFFICIENT HIGH-
CALIBRE PERSONNEL TO MEET THE DIFFICULT TECHNICAL TASKS
SURROUNDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.
END UNCLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT: BEGIN LOU. AFTER HEARING THAT PPC WOULD
DEFINITELY PROCEED WITH LAVRION, WE CALLED DEPUTY GOVERNOR
LIVIERATOS TO REMIND HIM OF COORDINATION MINISTER
MITSOTAKIS' ASSURANCE (REF D) THAT U.S. FIRMS WOULD BE
WELCOME TO BID ON THE PROJECT. LIVIERATOS SAID IT WILL
PROBABLY GO TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER, AND HE PROMISED TO
INFORM US IN SEVERAL DAYS ABOUT THE TIMING AND OTHER DETAILS
END LOU
MCCLOSKEY

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